

THE BELDING BANNER-NEWS

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HUBERT M. ENGEMANN
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"Let us then stand by the constitution as it is, and by our country as it is, one, united, and entire; let it be a truth engraven on our hearts; let it be borne on the flag under which we rally in every exigency, that we have one country, one constitution, one destiny."—Daniel Webster.

THE THANKSGIVING SPIRIT.

For a great many years the American people have appointed an annual Thanksgiving day, the purpose of which was to render thanks to God for his great blessings. As we look back on the comparatively lavish and easy going times of the past, we now realize what our blessings were.

Our people were at liberty to go their own ways, with no call to arms to break up their families and businesses, and no warfare to devastate homes. There was an abundance of food. We had all the blessings of free government provided by the sacrifices of our fathers, and no one had to risk even a cold in the head to preserve them. The great majority of us never thanked anyone for it, never breathed a prayer of gratitude.

We made the national Thanksgiving day merely a day of feasting when most people ate much more than was good for them.

Then all at once the bottom dropped out of our life. We discovered that these blessings are not indefinitely provided without effort on our part but that they must be maintained by our own toil, sacrifice and suffering.

Our people have risen nobly to the difficulties of the situation, have borne some deprivations and losses, have fought their fight and fought it well. But let us not think we have done it all ourselves. We are placed on earth to work out certain purposes by a higher power and it is God that gives us the strength to fight our battles.

Let us on this Thanksgiving day make it something more than mere fleshy feasting. Let us acknowledge that the eternal forces of righteousness and truth have given us their help. Let us then turn to God with overflowing hearts for the succor he has given us in a time of great need and for the bright day of opportunity before us.

THE WAGE QUESTION.

One of the most perplexing of our after the war problems is the matter of wages. A great many wage earners have had no advance comparable with that of the cost of living. Retail merchants have not usually secured any larger income. Teachers, clergymen and many other classes of people have to get along on about the same pay they always had, while the cost of living has advanced from a third to a half.

The majority of people have had advances in wages or other increase of incomes, but as prices have gone up about the same amount it is doubtful if they are better off. The result is to check production in many directions. Building and repairing of houses for instance has largely stopped on account of the cost of labor. Repairs are postponed until the last possible moment.

The producers of manufactured articles and food products have not suffered by the advance in wages. They add the higher cost of labor to the price of their product and get the same old profit. As it is impossible to adjust these matters even some people are better off and some are worse off and the distribution of wage advances has been very unfair and uneven.

When strikes are threatened, employer and employee must be willing to submit their case to disinterested arbitration. Public sentiment will not tolerate violent action.

People must be willing to leave the problems to fair arbitration of disinterested parties. Producers ought not to expect profits that will quickly amass wealth. Wage earners must remember that prices must be such that goods can be sold without checking consumption.

BACK TO SCHOOL.

The Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor is now urging children of school age to go back to their books. A great many of them tempted by high wages, quit their courses of study during the year. When the work was so badly needed to help win the war, people hated to discourage them.

The young folks who have suddenly found themselves able to earn good money hate to quit. They can't see why book education is necessary, as so far they have got good jobs without knowing much history or geometry or civics.

Conditions will change soon. The soldiers will return and claim many of these jobs. Employers will not

take boy and girl help if they can get more mature labor.

These young people insofar as they can reasonably be spared from positions where they are now working, would better get back into school before the year is farther advanced. If they stay out till next fall they will find it hard to go back. Their former classmates will have moved on and they will feel humiliated at having to drop back with younger children.

The government discourages children under 18 from leaving school. Employers of labor should cooperate by refusing to hire those too young to go to work. Parents should make many sacrifices in order to give their children a decent life training.

Some people think home life will seem humdrum to the soldiers. One suspects however, that after sitting up all night to see if the Boches' bombers were coming over, they will be perfectly content to nod off to sleep in a Morris chair and go to bed at 9 o'clock.

The best welcome for the returning soldier is not the brass band and the parades and the speeches of distinguished citizens, but the notification from the boss that he hang up his hat on the old peg the next Monday morning and take a better job.

If the pedestrian is looking for an automobile to give him a lift, his chances are much better with the little old Ford hurrying to do a job of work, than with the care free limousine which has nothing to do but kill time.

A friend asks what has become of the woman who on Thanksgiving day used to display 100 pies stored away on her shelves? Dunno, but her daughter last heard from was kicking on the high size of the bakery bill.

The boys who have lived the open air army life will not be satisfied to settle down to work in close rooms, with windows hermetically sealed so that no draft shall blow on the girls' mosquito netting waists.

Locomotive engineers will miss the war news as now they can't wake up people-along the line at night by blowing their whistles for fake news of victories.

Congress has the easy problem at this session of raising everyone's wages, reducing everyone's hours of labor and cutting down the high prices and cost of living.

Not many of the Socialist gatherings, so far as heard from in this office, are singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Most of the politicians who opposed the war have learned that their presence is earnestly required in their home towns after March 4.

A large number of residents of Belding are celebrating their annual Indigestion day on Thursday, Nov. 28.

With Christmas presents to be purchased many people are asking for a 30-day armistice with their creditors.

Why not a permanent memorial for our boys in Belding?

School Notes

The freshmen are planning a party to entertain the sophomores.

Notice placed on board by freshmen president, "Freshmen meeting tonight, 8:15."

Miss Fortune has gone to attend the funeral of a relative.

Mr. Skinner addressed the students for a few minutes Monday morning.

A number of pupils are absent because of the flu.

LOYALTY IN LITTLE THINGS LAST PROOF OF PATRIOTISM

Americans without murmuring cut their sugar allowance from four pounds a month to three and then as long as need be to two pounds for loyalty's sake.

Food Will Win the World.

America earned the gratitude of allied nations during war by sharing food. America under peace may win the world's good will by saving to share.



DEMOCRACY VS. AUTOCRACY.

"There is no royal road to food conservation. We can only accomplish this by the voluntary action of our whole people, each element in proportion to its needs. It is a matter of equality of burden."

The truth of this statement, made by the United States Food Administrator soon after we entered the war, has been borne out by the history of our exports. Autocratic food control in the lands of our enemies has broken down, while democratic food sharing has maintained the health and strength of this country and of the Allies.

MEAT PRODUCERS DID FULL DUTY

Increase in American Hogs Will Help to Meet World Fat Shortage.

FARMERS SAVE SITUATION.

Government Justified in Stimulation of Pork Production—Sevenfold Increase Over Pre-War Exports.

Through increased production and conservation we will be able this year to export seven times our pre-war average exports of pork products. With the heavy demands added in caring for the millions who have been freed from German oppression, the Department of Agriculture and the Food Administration are justified today in our every action of stimulation of hog production. In the coming year the greatest world shortage will be in fats, and pork will help to save this situation. The efficiency of the policy of stimulated production has built up in this country supplies which will enable us to supply a very large part of the fat deficiency of the world. In beef there must be a shortage in Europe, due largely to limited refrigerator ship capacity. All freezer ships available, however, will be filled by America, Argentine and Australia.

The contribution made by the producers of this country to the war program as applying particularly to animal food products is illustrated by the following:

Reports compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicate an increase in cattle of 10,238,000 head and 12,441,000 hogs. These figures were compiled to January 1 last.

In this period there was a decrease in sheep of 819,000 head. The indications are that this decrease will show an increase, according to recent reports.

Since January 1 unofficial information indicates an increase in hogs of not less than 8 per cent, and not more than 15 per cent, as compared with one year ago, with an increase in the average weight.

Following the request of the U. S. Food Administration for an increase in hog production for marketing in the fall of 1918 and the spring of 1919 the increase may yield not less than 1,600,000 pounds more of pork products than were available last year. Without this increase the shipping program arranged by Mr. Hoover regarding animal food products would have been impossible.

The dressed hog products during the three months ending September 30, 1917, amounted to 903,172,000 pounds, while for the corresponding months of 1918 the dressed hog products totaled 1,277,589,000, an increase of over 374,000,000 pounds for the quarter.

During the same period for 1917 the records of inspected slaughter of dressed beef showed 1,263,000,000 pounds as against 1,454,000,000 pounds for the three month period ending September 1, this year.

Our food Gospel eat less serve less waste nothing

America's Pledge of Food Gave Heart to the Allies In Their Darkest Hour

Whatever is necessary America will send. That was America's pledge to the international food council. And because the American food army had hitherto made good they took heart and went forward.

Farm enterprise and much soft corn increased pork supplies, food conservation increased exports—total shipments doubled.

FAITH JUSTIFIED BY EVENTS.

I do not believe that drastic force need be applied to maintain economic distribution and sane use of supplies by the great majority of American people, and I have learned a deep and abiding faith in the intelligence of the average American business man, whose aid we anticipate and depend on to remedy the evils developed by the war.—Herbert Hoover, August 10, 1917.

Patriot's Plenty

Buy less - Serve less Eat only 3 meals a day Waste nothing Your guests will cheerfully share simple fare Be Proud to be a food saver

Julian Eltinge in "The Clever Mrs. Carfax," Thanksgiving at Empress, matinee at 2:30 and evening at 7:30.

SAVE 16,000,000 BUSHELS OF WHEAT THAT FORMERLY WAS LOST IN THRESHING

Farmers, Urged by Food Administration, Provide Seven Extra Loaves of Bread for Every American.

By adopting cleaner threshing methods and by literally combing harvest fields to gather grain formerly wasted, threshermen and farmers of the United States this year saved fully 16,000,000 bushels of wheat, estimated as equivalent to about seven one-pound loaves of bread for every person in the country. This result, accompanied by corresponding savings of barley, oats, rye and other grains, is shown by reports from 33 grain states to the U. S. Food Administration. Other states, although not prepared to furnish definite figures of conservation in the grain fields, report greatly reduced harvest losses.

This rural food saving achievement, accomplished in scarcely six months' time, was in direct response to requests by the Food Administration, which asked farmers and threshermen to reduce harvest losses from about 3 1/2 per cent.—the estimated average in normal times—to the lowest possible minimum. Country grain threshing committees carried into every grain growing community the official recommendations for accomplishing the results desired.

In numerous instances drivers of racks with leaky bottoms were sent from the fields to repair their equipment and frequently had order threshing machines were stopped until the cause of waste was removed. But in proportion to the number of persons engaged in gathering the nation's grain crop, cases of compulsion were comparatively rare. The Food Administration freely attributes the success of the grain threshing campaign to patriotic service by farmers, threshermen and their crews. Incidentally grain growers of the United States are many millions of dollars "in pocket" as a result of the grain saved.

NO ONE SUFFERED HERE.

The marvel of our voluntary food saving, now that we are "getting results," is that no one ever actually suffered any hardship from it; that we all are better in health and spirit and better satisfied with ourselves because of our friendly self-denial.

Food control in America held the price of breadstuffs steady, prevented vicious speculation and extortion and preserved tranquillity at home.

In no other nation is there so willing a sense of voluntary self-sacrifice as in America—that was shown in the abstinence from wheat.

Find more wheat, it came; more pork, it came; save sugar, it was done. So Americans answered the challenge of German starvation.

Good will rules the new world as fear governed the old world. Through sharing food America helps make the whole world kin.

Food control made sufficiency from shortage, kept the rein on food prices, gave the nation's full strength exercise.

Starvation by Germany challenged all the world; food conservation in America answered the challenge.

Food conservation in America has been the triumph of individual devotion to the national cause.

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be proud to be a food Saver

BUY W. S. S.

BUY W. S. S.

Special Prices on Distinctive Coat Models

Most women want Coats that do something besides keep out frost biting winds. They will find Coats featured in this sale very much to their liking for they are smart as well as warm. They are made from fine chiffon broadcloth, wool velour, are lined throughout with all silk figured satin. The colors are navy, brown and green, large fur collars of beaver, martin and river mink. These Coats were priced for early selling at \$59.50. Special Christmas price \$49.50

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PROVED SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY

Voluntary Basis of Food Saving Showed Heart of America Beat True for Freedom.

To the voluntary service and sacrifice of the American people must be attributed the continued health, strength and morale of the Allied armies and the civil populace.

Upon this spirit of service and sacrifice will depend Europe's fate in the months to come. In the past year we have carried out an export program, the magnitude of which is almost beyond comprehension. But with the new demands that have come, with the liberation of nations freed from German oppression, our exports must be almost doubled. Instead of 11,820,000 tons, we must ship twenty million tons of food to Europe in the coming year—as much as can be pushed through our ports.

If the Allies had not been fed by America, it would have been impossible for them to maintain their defense against Germany.

Meeting this world need on a purely voluntary basis, the American people have conclusively proved that democracy is a success and that in time of need it will rise to its own defense.

If there were no other accomplishment to its credit the very fact that it has shown the strength of democracy has in itself more than justified the existence of the Food Administration in the eyes of the world.

Less than four months after the United States declared war the United States Food Administrator expressed his determination to meet America's food problem on a basis of voluntary action and reiterated his confidence that awakened democracy would prove irresistible.

"Many thinking Americans," said Mr. Hoover, "and the whole world have been watching anxiously the last four months in the fear that democratic America could not organize to meet autocratic Germany. Germany has been confident that it could not be done. Contrary proof is immediately at our door, and our people have already demonstrated their ability to mobilize, organize, endure and prepare voluntarily and efficiently in many directions and upon the mere word of inspiration aside from the remarkable assemblage of our Army and finances."

The history of the Food Administration has clearly shown that the success of those who put their faith in democracy has not been misplaced.

Card of Thanks. We wish to sincerely thank the neighbors and friends for all they have done for us in the sickness and death of our dear wife and daughter, for the beautiful flowers; also the ladies of the M. E. church for the flowers and kind sympathy.

Ben Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Whitney. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Whitney. Mrs. Lloyd Clark, Lansing. Mrs. Minnie Cox. Mrs. J. A. Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Johnson.

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